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Organic Products

Stricter Organic Labeling Rules

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Report Highlights:

Council Regulation 2092/91 has been amended to prohibit, as of 1 July 2005, the use of terms suggesting an organic connotation such as "bio" or "eco" on products which are not organic.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
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[E2]

Stricter organic labeling rules

Council Regulation 2092/91 provides for an EU wide protection of certain terms used to indicate to the consumer that a food or feed product has been produced in accordance with the EU's organic production rules. Council Regulation 1804/1999 extended the protection to the usual derivatives of these terms. However, regulation 1804/1999 also provided for a derogation until July 2006, for trade marks using one of the protected terms (e.g. Danone's "Bio yoghurt") on conventional products on condition that the trade mark had been registered before July 22, 1991.

To prevent any misinterpretation or misuse, Council Regulation 2092/91 has been amended to prohibit, as of 1 July 2005, the use of terms suggesting an organic connotation such as "bio" or "eco" on products which are not organic. Only organic food products complying with the EU's organic production will be allowed to display labels using EU organic terminology. The following terms, in any EU language, or their usual derivatives or diminutives, alone or combined, will be regarded as indications referring to organic production methods:

- in Spanish: ecológico
- in Danish: økologisk
- in German: ökologisch, biologisch
- in Greek: βιολογικός
- in English: organic
- in French: biologique
- in Italian: biologico
- in Dutch: biologisch
- in Portuguese: biológico
- in Finnish: luonnonmukainen
- in Swedish: ekologisk

The regulation does not apply to non-agricultural products or products which clearly have no connection with the organic production method.

The amendment, published as Council Regulation 392/2004, can be downloaded from the Internet at http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/pri/en/oj/dat/2004/l_065/l_06520040303en00010003.pdf.

Visit our website: our website www.useu.be/agri/usda.html provides a broad range of useful information on EU import rules and food laws and allows easy access to USEU reports, trade information and other practical information. More information on organics can be found at www.useu.be/agri/organic.html. E-mail: AgUSEU.Brussels@usda.gov

Related reports from USEU Brussels:

Report Number	Title	Date Released
E24024	European Hearing on Organic Food and Farming	2/12/2004
E23248	Council Conclusions on the EU's Organic Action Plan	12/24/2003

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